

OPINION 2269 (Case 3487)***Megalosaurus crenatissimus* Depéret, 1896 (currently *Majungasaurus crenatissimus*; Dinosauria, Theropoda): designation of a neotype**

Abstract. The prevailing usage and concept of the species *Megalosaurus crenatissimus* Depéret, 1896 (currently *Majungasaurus crenatissimus*) has been conserved by replacement of the existing, non-diagnostic holotype with a neotype.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Reptilia; Archosauria; Dinosauria; Theropoda; ABELISAUURIDAE; *Majungasaurus*; *Megalosaurus*; *Megalosaurus crenatissimus*; Madagascar; Cretaceous.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that all previous type fixations for the nominal species *crenatissimus* Depéret, 1896, as published in the binomen *Megalosaurus crenatissimus*, are hereby set aside and the specimen MNHN.MAJ 1 (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris) is hereby designated as the neotype.
- (2) The name *Majungasaurus* Lavocat, 1955 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Megalosaurus crenatissimus* Depéret, 1896, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *crenatissimus* Depéret, 1896, as published in the binomen *Megalosaurus crenatissimus* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above (specific name of the type species of *Majungasaurus* Lavocat, 1955), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3487

An application to conserve the prevailing usage and concept of the species *Megalosaurus crenatissimus* Depéret, 1896 (currently *Majungasaurus crenatissimus*) by replacing the existing, non-diagnostic holotype with a neotype was received from Matthew T. Carrano (*Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, U.S.A.*), David W. Krause (*Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, U.S.A.*), Patrick M. O'Connor (*Ohio University, Athens, OH, U.S.A.*) and Scott D. Sampson (*University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, U.S.A.*) on 4 February 2009. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 66: 261–264 (September 2009). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2010 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 66: 263. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2010 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 25: Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Fautin, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Lim, Minelli, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 0.

Alonso-Zarazaga, Ng and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Kojima felt there was confusion in the usage of the term ‘holotype’ in the title and paragraph 10. In paragraph 1, the authors correctly referred to the specimens as ‘name-bearing type specimens’. As the holotype was not designated in the original publication these specimens were syntypes and no holotype of *Megalosaurus crenatissimus* Depéret, 1896 was ever present unless the original isolated and fragmentary fossil specimens came from a single individual. Lamas also voted FOR and noted that both in the title and some parts of the text of the application the authors referred (wrongly) to a ‘holotype’ of *Megalosaurus crenatissimus* (e.g. in paragraph 10). In fact, that name was based on a type series consisting of ‘isolated and fragmentary fossils’, not upon a single specimen. Nevertheless, Lamas supported the petition for designation of a neotype under the Commission’s plenary power.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

crenatissimus, *Megalosaurus*, Depéret, 1896, *Bulletin de la Société Géologique de France*, (3)24: 188.

Majungasaurus Lavocat, 1955, *Bulletin du Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris*, (2)27(3): 259.